

*Sub
133*
129. A method of inhibiting a Keratinocyte Growth Factor from stimulating epithelial cells in an *in vitro* medium comprising applying a compound to said medium, wherein in an *in vitro* bioassay, said compound inhibits a Keratinocyte Growth Factor having the amino acid sequence of Figure 7 from stimulating epithelial cell mitogenesis.

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130. The method of claim 129, wherein said compound comprises an active ingredient that is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, a fragment of an antibody, a DNA probe, heparin and a peptide that is based upon said antibody.

131. The method of claim 129, wherein said bioassay is the BALB/MK bioassay.

REMARKS

I. Restriction Requirement

Pursuant to Examiner Saoud's suggestion, Applicants herewith elect to proceed under the transitional provisions set forth in 37 CFR § 1.129 and request examination of both groups I and II in this application. The requisite fee is attached.

II. New claims

Prior to examination on the merits, applicants herewith request entry of new claims 121-131. No new matter is added with these new claims. For instance, support for new claims 121-125, which are directed to a topical method can be found in the specification at pages 11-12, wherein conditions involved with excess epithelial cell growth are identified. Psoriasis is listed. At page 31, line 15-page 32, line 5, applicants indicate that the BALB/MK bioassay of the invention can be used to identify the receptor for KGF as well as antibodies, fragments and related pharmaceutical compositions that neutralize KGF activity. Thus, applicants contemplated neutralizing pharmaceuticals that functioned via knowledge of KGF and its receptor and disclosed

antibodies and peptides related to such antibodies that neutralized KGF activity. See e.g., "Production against antibodies against KGF and KGF-related peptides" at page 55.

The specification similarly discloses the use of DNA probes to detect DNA encoding KGF and mRNA related to the expression of KGF. Specific bioassays based upon DNA probes are disclosed, *inter alia*, at page 11, line 1-15 and page 61, line 3 to page 62, line 27. These teachings are applicable to methods of inhibiting KGF activity through the hybridization of DNA probes with DNA or mRNA encoding KGF.

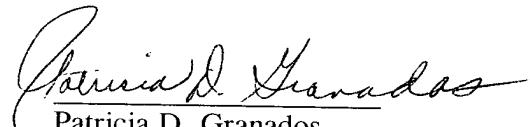
The use of heparin to inhibit KGF mitogenic activity is discussed throughout the specification, particularly at page 63.

CONCLUSION

In view of the attached fees and the above explanation, applicants respectfully request Examiner Saoud to enter the above amendment, withdraw the pending restriction requirement and examine this case on the merits. Examiner Saoud is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at 202-672-5477 to discuss any matter related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY OR CREDIT ANY OVER-PAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.